



MI-CW3209

Michigan Crop Weather

August 10, 2009

Heavy Rains

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 9, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.56 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 3.11 inches in the central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the northeast Lower Peninsula to normal in the southwest and southeast Lower Peninsula. Rain across Michigan over the weekend provided much needed moisture to relieve dry conditions. Growers still need the warmer temperatures to help crop growth. A grower in the southwest commented, “Rains on Saturday of this week ended a very dry period where crops were showing severe signs of drought.” Another grower in the southeast commented, “Drenching rain of about 2 inches fell Saturday and Sunday. This was much needed and should help move crops along.”

Field Crops

Highly anticipated rain showers and much needed heat appeared in many areas of the State. A reporter in the west central stated, “Finally received sufficient moisture and heat. The crops have everything to be something.” A reporter in the southwest was optimistic that the hot, humid weather would help advance developmentally delayed crops. **Wheat** harvest was all but complete in many areas of the State. In the east central and southeast, baling of wheat straw was occurring. **Oat** harvest began and good yields were expected due to cooler conditions during the growing season. **Corn** was silking or filling ears in the southern part of the State. In the northwest, a reporter stated that “corn was at least 12 days behind.” **Soybeans** were blooming or setting pods. The height was impacted by the consistent cool conditions. In addition to concerns of soybean height, the podding quality of the crop was in question also. **Alfalfa** harvest continued as conditions, in the southern portion of the State, were fully conducive to hay baling. Some farmers were receiving a third cutting while others reported that the second cutting was fully mature. **Sugarbeets** and **dry beans** continued to advance.

Fruit

Apples continued to size well in the southeast; summer pruning was underway. In the northwest, fruit size ranged from 46 to 56 mm in diameter. **Apricot** harvest was underway in the northwest. **Blueberry** harvest continued with large volumes of fruit in the southwest; flavor was excellent. Harvest of early variety **peaches** began in the northwest. In the southwest, peach harvest was underway; dry conditions have reduced fruit size, and brown rot was problematic. Harvest of early Red Haven was underway in the southeast; fruit size continued to suffer, and split pits were a concern. **Pears** continued to size; most were 2 inches in diameter. **Plums** were 29 mm in diameter in the northwest. In the southeast, plums were coloring and continued to size. Harvest of early fruiting canes of fall **raspberries** began in the southeast; fruit was slow to ripen. **Sweet cherry** harvest was nearly completed in the northwest. **Tart cherry** harvest continued to progress in the northwest; variability in ripeness was an issue. Wine **grapes** continued to develop; many were at berry touch.

Vegetables

Sweet corn harvest continued this week; harvest volume was light, but pest pressures have remained low. **Peppers** of all varieties were ripening, and picking began on some farms last week. **Tomato** harvest continued with most reports positive. In the southwest, growers expressed concern about mites found in some tomato fields and late blight confirmed in the area. **Cucumber**, **yellow squash**, and **zucchini** harvest continued with little difficulty. More reports of downy mildew in cucumber fields have raised concerns among vine crop producers. **Celery** harvest continued with few problems reported. **Eggplant** harvest continued at a somewhat slow pace but was expected to improve as temperatures increased. Across the State, **pumpkin**, **watermelon**, and **cantaloup** development continued; crop condition was good, especially where irrigation was available, but some growers reported minor problems with verticillium wilt and watermelon mosaic virus. In the southeast, harvest of **cabbage** and early **potatoes** continued with no problems reported. In the West Central region, **onion** and **leek** development continued; growers expected the most mature onion fields to be ready for harvest next week. In Oceana County, **snap bean** and **carrot** fields were being irrigated.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/09/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	19	17	49	15
Subsoil	14	27	53	6

Crop condition for week ending 08/09/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	4	11	35	42	8
Corn	6	14	33	39	8
Dry beans	5	12	41	33	9
Oats	2	5	29	56	8
Pasture	7	19	40	30	4
Soybeans	5	15	32	42	6

Crop progress for week ending 08/09/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Corn, height	73	66	NA	NA
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	70	63	81	81
All hay, third cutting	17	7	27	25
Blueberries, harvested	64	57	56	63
Corn, silked	71	47	95	90
Corn, dough	4	1	36	29
Dry beans, blooming	55	32	78	88
Dry beans, setting pods	12	10	50	61
Oats, turning yellow	93	84	96	96
Oats, harvested	27	9	44	55
Peaches, harvested	22	21	35	34
Potatoes, harvested	9	7	13	7
Soybeans, blooming	82	69	94	92
Soybeans, setting pods	33	15	73	69
Tart cherries, harvested	80	55	96	95
Winter wheat, harvested	92	78	100	99

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/09/09 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	81	45		1,147	1,234		0.58	0.95	2.35	10.03		
Marquette	81	43		1,039	1,164		0.58	0.95	2.35	10.04		
Stephenson	89	44		1,338	1,516		0.92	1.44	1.87	10.79		
Western UP	89	38	-2	1,141	1,242	1,319	0.56	0.94	2.32	10.28	13.89	3.69
Cornell	81	45		1,249	1,372		0.90	1.89	3.47	10.31		
Sault St Marie	80	47		1,028	1,191		0.89	1.12	2.87	10.50		
Eastern UP	81	40	-2	1,050	1,190	1,136	0.77	1.51	3.08	11.72	13.01	3.53
Beulah	83	52		1,391	1,624		3.07	4.21	5.12	14.90		
Lake City	83	44		1,327	1,560		2.31	2.85	4.02	15.06		
Old Mission	88	50		1,280	1,546		1.02	1.29	2.86	9.42		
Pellston	84	40		1,203	1,471		0.36	0.96	1.94	7.38		
Northwest	88	40	-2	1,262	1,500	1,496	1.28	1.84	2.80	10.31	12.24	3.11
Alpena	88	48		1,288	1,548		1.62	2.34	5.52	14.85		
Houghton Lake	83	43		1,334	1,600		0.87	1.90	4.27	14.03		
Rogers City	86	49		1,266	1,503		0.82	2.31	5.29	14.83		
Northeast	88	42	-3	1,294	1,553	1,448	1.01	1.92	4.51	13.85	12.34	3.12
Fremont	85	48		1,521	1,715		2.92	3.12	3.81	13.13		
Hart	86	46		1,443	1,619		1.74	1.74	2.45	14.73		
Muskegon	84	50		1,649	1,701		1.85	1.95	2.58	12.24		
West Central	86	44	-1	1,516	1,656	1,638	2.06	2.34	3.45	14.21	12.36	3.60
Alma	90	51		1,559	1,831		3.25	3.36	4.01	17.57		
Big Rapids	83	48		1,461	1,748		2.89	3.39	5.65	17.35		
Central	90	47	-2	1,508	1,770	1,706	3.11	3.33	4.64	16.00	13.34	3.64
Bad Axe	89	51		1,432	1,752		0.75	0.85	5.11	15.80		
Pigeon	88	49		1,414	1,696		1.20	1.56	4.80	15.77		
Saginaw	90	50		1,595	1,872		1.64	1.79	2.82	14.91		
Standish	87	47		1,413	1,652		1.74	1.85	3.18	13.48		
East Central	90	47	-2	1,428	1,761	1,692	1.66	1.81	4.12	15.67	12.13	2.93
Fennville	88	50		1,599	1,733		1.90	1.93	2.56	15.66		
Grand Rapids	91	52		1,780	1,989		2.35	2.54	3.48	19.08		
Holland	91	53		1,866	1,982		1.84	2.12	4.30	25.01		
South Bend, IN	92	54		1,922	2,052		0.29	1.31	2.19	14.91		
Watervliet	91	52		1,740	1,879		1.40	1.62	2.41	14.09		
Southwest	93	47	0	1,756	1,899	1,839	1.45	1.70	2.53	15.42	14.05	3.18
Belding	87	46		1,528	1,765		2.42	2.62	5.53	16.39		
Coldwater	92	49		1,800	1,875		0.30	0.56	1.23	14.26		
Lansing	91	50		1,679	1,933		3.69	3.78	6.10	21.65		
South Central	92	46	-1	1,648	1,880	1,821	2.58	2.77	4.08	17.55	13.92	3.36
Detroit	94	55		1,895	2,118		1.36	1.54	2.81	17.11		
Flint	90	49		1,634	1,978		3.94	4.01	5.69	21.04		
Romeo	92	52		1,635	1,853		4.10	4.21	5.44	15.84		
Tipton	92	49		1,697	1,916		1.23	1.36	1.89	14.29		
Toledo, OH	94	52		1,933	2,088		0.18	0.79	1.98	13.76		
Southeast	95	48	0	1,721	1,963	1,804	1.82	2.02	2.90	14.76	13.45	3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.